

Appln. No. 10/067,719
Amendment dated March 30, 2004
Reply to the Office Action of January 9, 2004.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 further including the steps of washing and then drying the zeolite-containing product.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein in the heating step (c) the impregnated porous inorganic oxide is raised to the synthesis temperature in a period of time short enough to preclude the formation of zeolite crystals larger than about 100 nm in size.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the zeolite in the product has a crystal size of from about 25 to about 100 nm.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the zeolite is zeolite Y.

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6. (Previously Presented) A method for making a zeolite, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a porous inorganic oxide;

b) impregnating said porous inorganic oxide with a liquid solution

containing a micropore-forming directing agent, wherein the amount of liquid solution is no more than about 100% of the pore volume of the inorganic oxide, and the concentration of the micropore-forming directing agent in the liquid solution ranges from about 25% to about 60% by weight; and,

c) heating the impregnated porous inorganic oxide at an elevated synthesis temperature for a duration of time sufficient to form a zeolite-containing product wherein the porous inorganic oxide is raised to the elevated synthesis temperature in a period of time less than about 3,600 seconds.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the period of time in which the porous inorganic oxide is raised to the elevated synthesis temperature is less than about 120 seconds.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the liquid solution is an aqueous solution.

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10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the inorganic micropore-forming directing agent is an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the micropore-forming directing agent is sodium hydroxide.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the concentration of inorganic micropore-forming directing agent ranges from about 25% to about 55% by weight.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the concentration of inorganic micropore-forming directing agent ranges from about 40% to about 50% by weight.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein substantially no organic directing agent is present.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the synthesis temperature ranges from about 50°C to about 150°C.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the synthesis temperature ranges from about 70°C to about 110°C.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the porous inorganic oxide is a silicon-aluminum-oxygen containing compound.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein the porous inorganic oxide has a structure having mesopores and/or macropores.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the zeolite-containing product is a composite structure retaining the framework morphology of the porous inorganic oxide but wherein at least some of the porous inorganic oxide is converted to crystalline material.

20. (Original) A method for making a nanocrystalline zeolite comprising:
a) providing an porous aluminosilicate material having a structure including mesopores and/or macropores;
b) impregnating the aluminosilicate material with an aqueous solution containing from about 25% to about 55% by weight of sodium hydroxide, wherein the

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amount of aqueous solution is from about 80% to 100% of the pore volume of the aluminosilicate material; and,

c) heating the impregnated aluminosilicate to an elevated synthesis temperature for a duration of time ranging from about 15 minutes to 5 hours to produce a product containing at least 76% zeolite with a crystal size less than 100 nm.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the product is a composite structure retaining the structure of the porous aluminosilicate but wherein at least some of the amorphous aluminosilicate is converted to the zeolite.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the zeolite is zeolite Y.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the zeolite Y has a crystal size of less than 100 nm and a pore size of from 7 Å to about 8 Å.